

Site #25 - Valley Creek

Valley Creek is a cold water trout stream on the east side of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. It is a popular fishing area, boasting one of Minnesota's highest producing populations of brown, brook and rainbow trout. The creek is a tributary of the St. Croix River, flowing into the St. Croix at St. Mary's Point, just north of Afton City Hall.

Quick Facts:



State & Country:

Afton, Washington Co, MN

Habitat Types:

Trout stream and springs
Prairie rich fens
Dry bedrock bluff prairies
Dry sand gravel prairies

Important Plants:

Silver maple floodplain forest
Oak forest
Kitten-tails
Old field toad flax

Important Wildlife:

Natural reproducing native Brook Trout and Brown & Rainbow Trout
American brook lamprey
Hooded warbler
Blanding's turtle
Caddisflies

Protection Designations:

Metro Greenways regionally significant ecological area

Ecological & Cultural Significance:

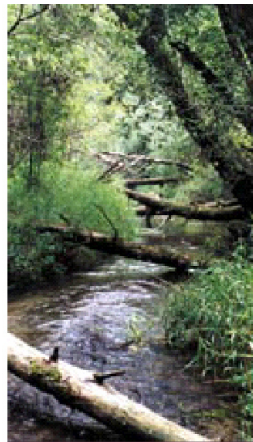
Valley Creek is a high quality trout stream, valued for its fishery and location on the eastern edge of the Twin Cities. The water quality and temperature of the creek contribute to the overall health of the St. Croix River.

Potential Threats:

The area through which Valley Creek flows is a rapidly developing area, as it is a popular location for residential development for commuters. The headwater springs for the creek as well as the creek's watershed are largely in private ownership. Development of the watershed could result in increased runoff into the creek, raising the water temperature and degrading the water quality of the creek which now support population of trout.

Current Activities:

Washington County holds a conservation easement on a portion of the Valley Creek watershed. Several organizations are pursuing conservation of the remaining sensitive lands within the watershed. The Valley Branch Watershed District is working with landowners to stabilize streambanks in the creek and ravines that feed into the creek. The watershed district also has developed a Best Management Practices cost-share program for property owners, and is developing a cost-share incentive program for developers.



Contact Information:

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Working Partners



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